

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in separate telephone interviews with Sheetal Patel (Reg. No. 598,326) on 5/21/08 and 5/23/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- a. **CANCEL** claims 1, 2, 10, 19 and 21.
- b. In claim 5, **INSERT** “, stored in a storage,” **AFTER** “an association table” in line 4.
- c. In claim 5, **INSERT** “different” **AFTER** “predetermined” in line 5.
- d. In claim 5, **INSERT** “different” **AFTER** “predetermined” in line 8.
- e. In claim 11, **INSERT** “different” **AFTER** “predetermined” in line 6.
- f. In claim 11, **INSERT** “different” **AFTER** “predetermined” in line 10.
- g. In claim 12, **INSERT** “different” **AFTER** “predetermined” in line 6.
- h. In claim 12, **INSERT** “different” **AFTER** “predetermined” in line 10.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see e.g., pp. 13-15 of the Brief filed 3/3/08, with respect to claims 5-8 and 11-17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of those claims has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5-8 and 11-17 (now renumbered 1-11) are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: These reasons for allowance should not be interpreted to imply that limitations not specifically mentioned are immaterial to patentability. The specific limitations identified below have been considered in combination with the entirety of the claim in determining patentability.

The prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a device/method as claimed, including an association table storing a predetermined event, a plurality of different control instructions and a plurality of different operation instructions corresponding to the event, wherein an event is detected based on the association table and the plurality of different control and/or operation instructions are transmitted to a plurality of chat device destinations (such that not all chat participants receive the same instructions) where the instructions are used to operate a image/physical representations of the chat participants that are linked to/installed in the chat device destinations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AARON STRANGE whose telephone number is (571)272-3959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Glenton B. Burgess/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2153

/A. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2153